

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON DIVISION**

IN RE: ETHICON, INC. PELVIC REPAIR)	
SYSTEM PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION)	
)	MDL NO. 2327
)	
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:)	
_____)	

UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF QUALIFIED SETTLEMENT FUND

Fitzgerald Law Group, LLC (“Fitzgerald Law Group”), as counsel for certain plaintiffs in this MDL No. 2327, hereby moves the Court for entry of an Order to aid in the efficient processing and administration of a Confidential Master Settlement Agreement (the “Settlement Agreement”) between Defendant Ethicon, Inc. and certain related entities (“Ethicon”) and Fitzgerald Law Group to resolve the claims of certain claimants against Ethicon relating to Ethicon Pelvic Mesh Products (as defined in the Settlement Agreement).¹ Ethicon does not oppose the motion. In support of its Motion, Fitzgerald Law Group states as follows:

1. This Motion seeks an Order (i) approving the establishment of the Fitzgerald Law Group - ETHICON QSF (the "Fund"); (ii) appointing an administrator of the Fund; (iii) retaining continuing jurisdiction and supervision over the Fund, and (iv) determining that the Fund, including any subaccounts thereof (“Accounts”), together constitute a single “qualified settlement fund” within the meaning of section 468B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (“Code”) and Treasury Regulation sections 1.468B-1, *et. seq.* (“Regulations”).

¹ The Settlement Agreement is not being filed with the Court because it contains confidential terms.

2. In accordance with the confidential Settlement Agreement, Ethicon will pay the settlement consideration to the Fitzgerald Law Group - ETHICON QSF. That payment, and the earnings thereon, will be held by the Fund until disbursed in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement for payments to the Plaintiffs or their designees, to attorneys for fees and costs, to lienholders, to governmental entities having an interest in the settlement proceeds, to the Fund Administrator, and to federal and state taxing authorities for tax liabilities of the Fund. The settlement consideration, and the earnings thereon, shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court until termination of the Fitzgerald Law Group - ETHICON QSF.

3. The Fitzgerald Law Group-ETHICON QSF shall be a Qualified Settlement Fund within the meaning of section 468B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and Treasury Regulation sections 1.468B-1 *et seq.*, and shall be administered in accordance with the requirements of those Treasury regulations. The Fund will qualify as a “qualified settlement fund” under section 468B of the Code and sections 1.468B-1, *et seq.* of the Regulations, because: (1) the Fund is being established subject to approval of the Court; (2) the Fund will be subject to the continuing jurisdiction and supervision of the Court; (3) the Fund is being established to resolve or satisfy claims of alleged tort or violation of law arising out of implantation, use and/or removal or revision, in whole or in part, of one or more Ethicon Pelvic Mesh Products; and (4) the Fund assets will be segregated from the general assets of Ethicon and deposited therein.

4. The establishment of the Fund as a “qualified settlement fund” under the Code and Regulations, subject to the Court’s continuing jurisdiction, is vital to the satisfaction of these objectives of the Parties’ settlement. Section 1.468B-1(c)(1) of the Regulations expressly requires that a qualified settlement fund be “established pursuant to an order of, or is approved by, the United States, any state (including the District of Columbia) territory, possession, or

political subdivision thereof, or any agency or instrumentality (including a court of law) . . . and is subject to the continuing jurisdiction of that governmental authority.”

5. No distributions shall be made from the Fitzgerald Law Group-ETHICON QSF except as permitted by the terms of the Escrow Agreement between Plaintiffs’ Counsel, Ethicon, the Fund Administrator, and the Escrow Agent and pursuant to the terms of the Parties’ Settlement Agreement.

6. In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, Ethicon will pay the settlement consideration to the Fund. Such payments and the earnings thereon (collectively, the “Fund”) will be held by the Fund until disbursed by the Fund Administrator in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Escrow Agreement.

7. Plaintiffs’ Counsel request that no bond be required and further request approval that the Fund be held by the Escrow Agent, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., a federally insured depository institution which has been selected by Plaintiffs’ Counsel, with the consent of Ethicon, to serve as custodian of the Fund (the “Custodian”). A copy of the Escrow Agreement, with financial and personal identifying information redacted, is attached as Exhibit A to this Motion. The Custodian shall hold the Fund in one or more demand deposit accounts and shall invest and reinvest the Fund and the proceeds thereof in an interest bearing deposit demand account(s) which has rates of compensation that may vary from time to time as determined by the Custodian. The fundamental goal of the Fund Administrator is to preserve the Trust Estate, reduce investment costs and fees, and earn a reasonable but safe return on investment of the Trust Estate.

8. The Plaintiffs request that that The Garretson Resolution Group, Inc., with a business address of: 6281 Tri-Ridge Blvd., Loveland, Ohio 45140 be appointed as the Qualified

Settlement Fund Administrator (the “Fund Administrator”) to administer the Fund (as a “qualified settlement fund”) within the meaning of section 1.468B-2(k)(3) of the Regulations.

9. The Custodian shall cause to be prepared and delivered Fund Statements (“Statements”) on a monthly and annual basis to interested parties, including counsel for the Plaintiffs, Defendants, and Fund Administrator. The Statements shall include, without limitation, a statement of receipts, investment earnings, and disbursements. The Custodian shall provide the monthly Statements as soon as available, but in no event later than ten (10) business days following the end of the month to which those statements relate. The Custodian shall provide the annual Statements as soon as available, but in no event later than forty-five (45) days following the end of each calendar year.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Fitzgerald Law Group, LLC respectfully requests that the Court approve establishment of the Fund as a qualified settlement fund, and enter an Order in the form submitted herewith.

This 8th day of November, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kevin M. Fitzgerald
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Counsel for the Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 8, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the CM/ECF participants registered to receive service in this MDL.

/s/ Kevin M. Fitzgerald